

According to a new survey released by the Centers for Disease Control, 2005 saw the first increase in the nation's high school smoking rate since 1997. In a troubling development, the percentage of high school students reporting they have smoked cigarettes in the past month increased to 23 percent in 2005, up from 21.9% in 2003. In a market where the tobacco industry spends over \$15 billion per year on advertising, the Congress must do more to protect our children from cigarettes. I am a cosponsor of H.R.1376, Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which would require the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the tobacco industry. By treating the tobacco the same as all other perishable goods, this legislation would give federal regulators the authority to crack down on candy-flavored cigarettes and other advertising targeting children.